



August 2021

Teen Driving Traffic Safety Newsletter

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Tips for Parents and Caregivers of Teen Drivers

Your teen looks up to you more than you think. Set a good example for them when you are the one behind the wheel. Do not drive distracted or impaired, and do not speed. Before putting the vehicle into drive, power down devices, buckle up and turn the radio down to an appropriate level.

- From the beginning of the teen driver education journey, set consequences for broken rules. Driving is a privilege, not a right. For example, if you catch your teen engaging their phone while behind the wheel, initiate consequences such as losing their cell phone privileges, driving privileges, etc. Too many teens are injured or killed in car crashes daily. Let them know that their life is not worth the risk of breaking the rules of the road.
 - Seatbelt usage is the lowest among teen drivers when compared to any other age group. Lead by example and remember to buckle up each time you get in the car (no matter how little or far of a distance you are driving). Make a point to talk about it with your teen, too. Novice drivers learn the most just by talking with and observing, their parents or other adults they frequently ride alongside in motor vehicles.
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Sarah Cattie, Teen Driving Program Manager and Management Analyst III, Delaware Office of Highway Safety

Sarah oversees the Teen Driving, Distracted Driving, Occupant Protection, and Child Passenger Safety Programs for DOHS. Anyone wishing to connect with Sarah for questions or comments regarding these traffic safety program areas may contact her directly at **Sarah.Cattie@Delaware.Gov**.

High school and its activities seem to move faster than ever. Adding new vehicle and phone technology into the mix can leave a teen driver feeling overwhelmed or pulled in too many directions. Their focus should be on the task at hand when they are driving. Delaware is unique in that driver education is offered free of charge to students in public and private high schools. It presents the opportunity for us to create partnerships with other agencies to ensure that new drivers and their sponsors feel supported to set positive lifelong driving habits.

My name is Sarah Cattie, and I am the Program Manager for **Teen Driving, Distracted Driving, and Occupant Protection**. I am excited to be guest-writing for August's edition of the TSN! I am also a Certified **Child Passenger Safety** Technician. I have been with the Delaware Office of Highway Safety since 2017. Before my position with OHS, I worked for **DelDOT** for nine years in Maintenance and Operations as a Database Administrator.

I am pleased to be the Chair of the Delaware Teen Driver Task Force, a group representing the **Department of Education and Driver Education Teachers, Delaware State Police, SmartDrive Foundation, and Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles**. We promote safe driving for our new teen drivers and find ways to support driver education teachers both in the classroom and on the road.

Upcoming DOHS News for Student Teen Driving Safety Opportunities

The Office of Highway Safety is partnering with the **Department of Education, SmartDrive Foundation, and State Farm Insurance** to create scholarship opportunities for teen drivers and

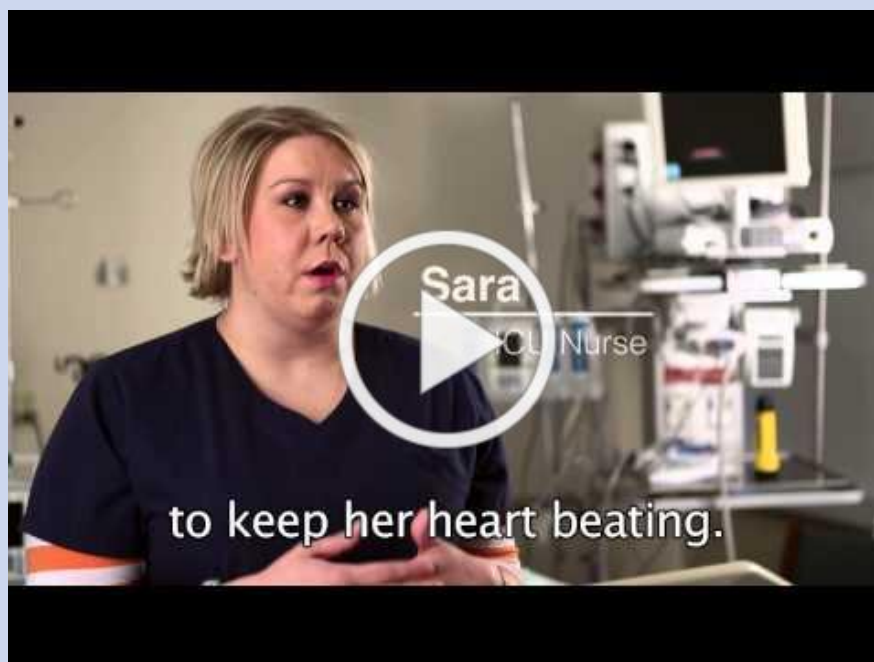
develop a resource toolkit for driver education teachers in every Delaware high school. I am looking forward to this opportunity arising over the next few months to strengthen our outreach and messaging to teen drivers and their sponsors. These scholarship opportunities will most likely be available in Fall 2021.



Reckless & Distracted Driving is the #1 Killer of Teens...

Impact Teen Drivers develops, promotes, and facilitates evidence-based education to stop the number one killer of teens - car crashes, particularly those caused by reckless and distracted driving. We seek to change the culture of driving to one...

Read more
www.impactteendrivers.org



Teenagers tend to have the invincible attitude that something serious could never happen to them. In the video above, Sydnee Williams, her family, and her friends felt the same way. Unfortunately, while Sydnee was driving her friends to their destination, she became distracted by them and ended up losing control of her vehicle. Sydnee was not wearing her seatbelt, and because of the two choices, she died. To this day, Sydnee's best friend is still recovering from the crash after breaking her neck and back. In addition to the physical injuries sustained by Sydnee's friends, they now carry the daily burden that their best friend is gone, and their actions ultimately contributed to her death. Let us all help end preventable teen driving crashes and death by educating them and providing the best example of good driving practices.

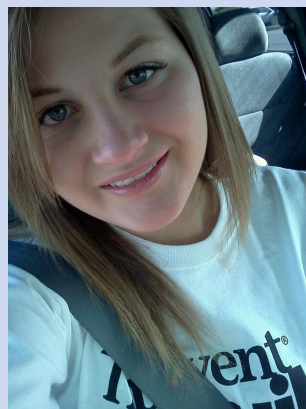
Sydnee's family turned her tragedy into a legacy by speaking with other teen drivers across the nation about the impact of texting while driving, and other distractions while driving behind the wheel. To learn more about Sydnee's legacy campaign, visit her **website** and the links below.



Father brings safe-driving message to students at school ...

Around 670 students at Eastland Career Center in Groveport sat through the National Teen Driver Safety Week assembly, with stories about how you shouldn't eat while driving, how you shouldn't text while driving, how you shouldn't goof around in a ...

Read more
www.dispatch.com



Remember Sydnee

Remember Sydnee Williams by buckling up, not texting while driving, and giving life through organ donation.

Read more
www.remembersydnee.com

Click below for additional information and resources for
teen driving safety

NHTSA Teen Driving Resource
Page

Protect Teen Drivers in
Delaware - ArriveAliveDE.com

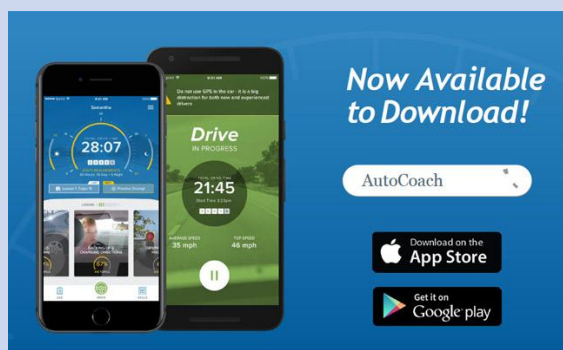
Click below for Teen Driving Monitoring Apps - please note that
these apps are suggested resources and are not an endorsement
by DOHS



TrueMotion
:DriveSmart

AutoCoach, available for free, is an app that gives parents tips on coaching their children through the learning stage of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL). For teens in the beginning stages of learning, the app features a "Before You Drive" quiz that parents can give their teens to assess the teen's readiness to obtain a Learner's Permit.

Once teens begin the behind-the-wheel experience, the app includes advice on teaching skills which include parallel parking, driving on highways, managing intersections, and understanding traffic controls. In addition, AutoCoach logs the amount of time a parent spends with their teen behind the wheel as they complete their GDL requirement. The log allows parents to rate each drive, note demonstrated skills, and document the road conditions (weather, time of day, etc.). Click below to learn more and download the app on Android and iOS devices.



GDL Frequently Asked Questions - Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles

Online Graduated Driver Licensing Parent Orientation Program

In 2004, officials created the Graduated Driver's License (GDL) Parent Orientation Program to educate sponsors of teen drivers about their responsibilities under the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law. OHS has now made the program available online for all parents and sponsors. Click the link below to be taken directly to the program online.

Graduated Driver's License Parent Orientation Program

Join Our Mailing List

Sign up for our Traffic Safety Newsletter!

Just send your email address by text message:

Text
HIGHWAYSAFETYDE
to **22828** to get started.



Message and data rates may apply.

Facts and Statistics:

- The death rate is twice as high for young males as it is for young female drivers.
- Teens ages 16-19 are more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than any other age group.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of teen deaths.
- Since being enacted in 1999, the GDL law has helped reduce teen crashes in Delaware by over 30%.

Updates

As a reminder, the monthly mailing of posters and flyers is suspended due to COVID-19. Should you or your organization have specific requests, please contact our office.

Be on the lookout for upcoming campaigns!
September 2021 – Child Passenger Safety

Please continue to share our safety messaging on your social media platforms and email us with updated information about your organization. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram at @HighwaySafetyDE. Thank you!



Cynthia Cavett
(302) 744.2743
Cynthia.Cavett@Delaware.Gov
ArriveAliveDE.com

*For more information and tools, please visit
ArriveAlivede.com or call our office at
(302) 744.2740.*